

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE PROPOSED CONNECTED COMMUNITIES ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, all Chicagoans deserve the opportunity to live healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, Chicagoans have inequitable health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, geography, and other variables; and

WHEREAS, as of 2020, the gap in life expectancy between Black and white Chicagoans was ten years (up from 8.8 years in 2017), and for the first time in decades, life expectancy for Black residents of Chicago fell below 70 years; and

WHEREAS, Latinx residents of Chicago saw a 3-year decline in life expectancy between 2019 and 2020, the steepest drop of any racial or ethnic group, and have lost a total of 7 years of life expectancy since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Chicago 2025, Chicago's current five-year community health improvement plan recognizes that systemic forces including housing, food access, environment, public safety, and neighborhood planning and development are root drivers of health; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Chicago 2025 places a special focus on health and racial equity, articulating the following vision for Chicago: "A city where all people and all communities have power, are free from oppression and are strengthened by equitable access to resources, environments and opportunities that promote optimal health and well-being"; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that achieving health equity requires transforming policies and processes across institutions, CDPH is a founding member of Elevated Chicago, a community-led organization formed to bring a racial equity lens to urban planning and development, transit, public health, and other drivers of community well-being; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago, CDPH and Elevated Chicago are aligned in recognizing that equity is both a process and an outcome, and in order to realize equity, communities most impacted by inequities must be engaged as experts in their own experiences, strategists in co-creating solutions, and evaluators of success; and

WHEREAS, to fulfill a mandate from City Council, in 2020, the City developed an Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD) policy plan to convey Chicago's approach to equitable, healthy and sustainable development near transit hubs and corridors. The ETOD policy plan is the result of collaboration between the 80+ community, non-profit and City leaders, along with developers, artists, environmentalists, organizers and public input; and

WHEREAS, the City's ETOD policy plan was adopted in 2021 by the Chicago Plan Commission and the ETOD policy plan identified several priorities which required City Council action to implement; and

WHEREAS, the Connected Communities Ordinance was therefore introduced to City Council on June 22, 2022, after being collaboratively developed by the Elevated Chicago coalition, City departments and leaders from community and citywide organizations to implement the ETOD policy plan; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance leverages tools of urban planning to address historic disinvestments in Black and Brown communities, and avoid displacement triggered by gentrification; and

WHEREAS, CDPH, Elevated Chicago and the Illinois Public Health Institute conducted a Health and Racial Equity Impact Assessment (HREIA) in 2021-2022 on ETOD policies and their potential to affect health and racial equity across Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the HREIA assessment found that the **Connected Communities Ordinance**, along with community-centered implementation and investment focused in communities that have traditionally been excluded from decision-making in planning, development, and investment, **will likely make progress toward addressing persistent health and racial inequities**; and

WHEREAS, the HREIA additionally found that ETOD generally and the Connected Communities Ordinance particularly **are likely to significantly impact social determinants of health and racial equity** and improve access to healthcare, physical and mental health, stress, and air pollution, among other health and racial equity impacts, particularly for South and West side residents, Black, Latinx, Indigenous and Asian communities and other impacted groups; and

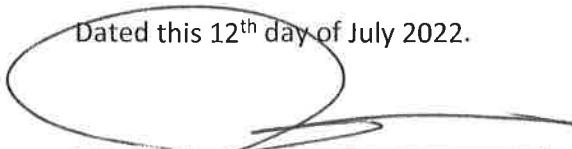
WHEREAS, the positive impact of ETOD policies on social determinants of health and racial equity will therefore contribute to the vision of an equitable Chicago articulated in Healthy Chicago 2025 if implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Board of Health advises the Mayor and the Commissioner of Public Health on all issues affecting the health of the residents of Chicago and acts to promote policies that advance health and racial equity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health therefore affirms the Mayor and CDPH's support of the Connected Communities Ordinance; now,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chicago Board of Health passes this resolution in support of the Connected Communities Ordinance and calls on Chicago City Council to pass the Connected Communities Ordinance in furtherance of health and racial equity.

Dated this 12th day of July 2022.



Janet Lin, MD

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